

**FSSAC Summer Summit**  
September 11 and 12, 2003  
Red Lion Colonial Inn  
Helena, MT

**Members Present:** Kelly Johnson, Brian Lenhardt, Barb Smith, Lucy Hart-Paulson, Micah Mitchell, Phyllis Astheimer, Dan McCarthy, Ron Herman, Lynda Korth, Sandi Marisdotter, Sylvia Danforth, Ted Maloney, Cris Volinkaty, Anne Marie Johnson, Novelene Martin, Sandy McGennis, Dr. Mary Anne Guggenheim, Mike Cooney, Gerald Pease, Patti Russ.

**Other Present:** Judy LeRoux (DDP Child & Family Liaison), Anne Lucas (NECTAC representative), Kathy Whaley (NECTAC representative), Jeff Sturm (DDP Director), Jannis Conselyea (DDP Bureau Chief), Jackie Emerson (DDP Program Assistant)

Kelly welcomed all members and guests and introduced Judy LeRoux, the new Child and Family Specialist at DDP. Judy shared her background and thanked everyone at DDP for the support she has received. (Note: Judy specifically wanted to thank Karen Cech and Jackie Emerson for the help she was given in setting up the Summit and for arranging her travel earlier this month.)

Kelly welcomed and introduced Kathy Whaley and Anne Lucas from NECTAC. They shared their backgrounds and the mission of NECTAC to assist and support States in developing strategic plans for change. OSEP and NECTAC will be sponsoring a National Early Childhood Conference November 3-5 in Washington, DC with pre-conference meetings starting on November 1. You can find more information on the website at: [www.nectag.org/~meetings/national2003/](http://www.nectag.org/~meetings/national2003/).

The members of the Council introduced themselves and reported what entity they represent and what they brought to the Council.

**Family Story:** Diana Colgrove shared that when her daughter, Emily, was born with Down's Syndrome the family was living in California. Since they had a home in Montana, too, she started comparing services and the family decided to move to Montana because there were services immediately available. A representative from CDC called the day after they moved in and visited two days later. Montana has a lot to offer; California is still fighting for inclusion in classrooms. The one thing she does miss is the parent network available in California. She would like to see more parents involved providing feedback.

**FSS Comprehensive Certification:** Judy reported that the first FSS Certification will be completed in October and the second one will hopefully be completed before Thanksgiving.

**National Part C Data Managers Conference:** Judy reported that the Conference in Washington, DC in August was very good on a national scale. She is reviewing data management software from other states to see if they are compatible with the State system. NECTAC and WESTAT have made themselves available for technical assistance.

**Performance Report:** The response to the Performance Report is due to be back by the end of October. Then it will be possible to read the required changes that need to be made and Judy will be able to report at the next meeting.

**DDP Updates:**

**Jeff Sturm :**

**Refinancing:** All adult services have been finished and DDP is now looking at refinancing all children's services – i.e. moving all those eligible from General Fund services into Medicaid services. Those in General Fund services will be moved to one of the following: the current Waiver, a possible CHIP Waiver, or a possible 1115 Demonstration Waiver. The current study shows only 15 could be moved into a CHIP Waiver so that probably won't happen. The current Waiver would have to be amended to accommodate the extra numbers. The direction should be decided by this spring.

Community Supports: CMS (Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Studies) just finished a review of the Montana Community Supports Waiver. The results were very positive. The CMS representatives reported that it was a wonderful opportunity for very individualized services that are not available under the usual Medicaid Waiver. The services are capped at \$7800 per person and since many of the recipients were not using the entire allotted amount, DDP was able to reallocate resources to create 30 more openings in the Waiver.

Special Session: It looks as though there will be a Special Legislative Session in January.

Travis D. Lawsuit: DPHHS is involved in mediation to try to settle the case out of court. If it is not settled through mediation, the trial will be set in September. The case involves the 1996 suit against MDC concerning placing individuals referred for services in the community.

Quality Assurance: DDP is in the process of testing and implementing an incident reporting database system. All incident reports statewide and at MDC will be entered into a web-based database that will enable participants to track and analyze trends. The project will be piloted by 5 providers then all providers will be given hands on training before final implementation of the database.

Investigations Policy: Because Adult Protective Services will no longer substantiate abuse, DDP must be able to substantiate abuse in order to identify the guilty individual(s). The Program is in the process of writing a policy and will be offering training to providers in the investigative process.

Jannis:

IFE&S application packet and manual: The application packet has been sent out and will be reviewed after it has been used to see how it is working. The packet includes a new assessment tool developed by Dr. Bill Cook. The Policies and Procedure Manual is currently out for provider review. After final changes, the document will be published. Jannis wanted to thank everyone involved for their valuable help and input.

New Part C grant in Montana: Ted gave a history of the university program and current grant to the University of Montana. He received notice on Monday that the partnership of Montana and North Dakota received a new grant of \$1,250,000 for 5 years – most of which will go to scholarships for on campus and distance training.

Anne Lucas:

Review of handout on Federal focus

OSEP is looking for accountability, results, and outcomes. Using data to demonstrate compliance and outcomes is important. They are emphasizing sanctions and data. We need to be using data to show how we make decisions, changes, improvements and to demonstrate support of the results.

Think about the question: What do you want the Montana early intervention services system to look like in 3-5 years? What are the key outcomes that need to be accomplished to get where you want to be? (The participants marked their suggestions on cards that were put on the wall and placed into like groups. The results are included in the document entitled “Brainstorming – Areas of System Need.”) Anne asked the group to take dot stick-ons and after lunch put them on the headings on the board to vote for the two areas that each person thought were the most important. (The votes are noted on the Brainstorming document in parentheses after each heading.)

After lunch the group was asked to consider: What will be doable for the Council? What will the State be doing or need to do? What will have the greatest impact? How can the Council fit into this context? The available time of the lead agency is important – they are not able to participate in all committees.

It was decided that instead of just a one-year plan, the Council would look at a 5-year plan. Cris V. made a motion that the Council make a 5 year plan and review and revise as needed. Sylvia seconded the motion and the vote passed unanimously. Kathy noted that it would be important to keep the plans in short term specific steps.

It is important to look at overlap of systems and in order to keep that money for other projects that would be spent on duplicate effort.

It is also important that resources not be based on State funding since it is limited to providing current services. The Council should look at finding other funding and maximizing other resources to become as self-sufficient as possible.

The participants divided into 4 groups and were asked to each develop a 5-year vision statement for the Council. Then the groups reconvened and read the individuals statements.

The group discussed the areas of need and decided on the focus for the Council. As the Council Chair, Kelly authorized the formation of four committees to focus on the areas of Data, Training, Financing, and Public Awareness.

Kathy and Anne placed flip chart sheets around the room for the group to rotate and list specific strategies for each of the areas. On the second day of the Summit the committees would meet separately and write a 5-year plan for the Council.

### **Friday, Day 2:**

The members signed up for one of the 4 committees.

The 5-year action plans will be reviewed and approved at the November meeting.

The group broke into the 4 committees:

Data: Dan (chair), Sandi Marisdotter, Kelly, Barb Smith

Training: Anne Marie (chair), Dr. Guggenheim, Sandy McGennis, Patti, Novelene, Lucy, Brian, Ted

Financing: Cris (chair), Gerald

Public Awareness: Diana (chair), Phyllis, Ted, Sylvia, Ron

A motion was made to explore Council funds to send a member of the Finance Committee to the NECTAC Conference on November 1-4. The motion was made by Barb and seconded by Sandi. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

A motion was made to recommend to DDP to send Judy to the NECTAC Conference. The motion was made by Ted and seconded by Patti and Dan. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

### **Next Steps:**

Anne will have the action plans typed up and sent back to the Council members. Jackie said she would make copies of the written ones and send them out to committee members on Monday.

Dan made a motion that the Council draft a letter for Kelly's signature to send Judy and also a representative from the Council to the conference. The motion was seconded by Lucy. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

The minutes from the last meeting were reviewed. Dan made the motion to accept the minutes as is. The motion was seconded by Brian. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Patti Russ reviewed the handout on the ChildCare Plus research report on the subject of Inclusion Child Care in Montana. The report is the result of a survey of child care program owner and directors and information on children with disabilities enrolled in their programs.

Websites requested: [www.nectac.org](http://www.nectac.org) and <http://www.dphhs.state.mt.us/fssac/>.

**The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, November 7<sup>th</sup> at the Colonial Building (TRW Building), 3<sup>rd</sup> floor conference room. When emailed to ask for agenda items, committee Chairpersons should set a time allotment for their committee to report.**